और यह योजना कार्यान्वित हेतु राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों को सौंप दी गई है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस योजना का ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ग) इसके कार्यान्वयन के सम्बन्ध में 1 जुलाई, 1988 तक योजना की क्या स्थिति थी ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में आर्थिक कार्य विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एडुवर्डो फेलेरियो) : (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) और (ग) ये सवाल पैदा ही नहीं होते ।

Aid from European Investment Bank

*187. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are seeking any aid from European Investment Bank (EIB); and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof for the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Flouting of Centre's directive by Orissa Government on the imposition of ban on felling of trees

*188. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Orissa Government has been flouting Centre's directive on the imposition of blanket ban on felling of trees and conservation of forest land as reported in the Business Standard of 12th July, 1988; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken/are proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) There is no directive from Central Government regarding imposition of blanket ban on felling of trees. The Central Board of Forestry had in its meeting held in December, 1987 recommended that extraction of wood from forests be stopped. This was communicated to all State Governments including Orissa.

Some cases of violation of the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in Orissa where some forest land has been diverted to non-forest uses without the prior approval of Government of India have come to notice.

(b) Instructions have been issued to the Government of Orissa, not to divert any forest land for raising commercial crops, without prior approval of Govenment of India as required under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. They have also been advised to issue appropriate orders so that areas, if any, diverted for non-forest purposes are brought back under forests.

Writing off bank loans of farmers in Andhra Pradesh

@*189. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agriculture Minister of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a memorandum and requested to consider for writing off the loans issued by commercial banks during 1987 Kharif session for cotton crop in view of the losses suffered by the cotton growers for the last three to four years due to continuous drought and white fly attack during 1987-88 and also requested the Centre to reconsider and extend Crop Insurance Scheme to cotton and tobacco crop; and

(b) if so, what action is being taken by Government in this regard?

@Previously Starred Question 149, transferred from the 5th August 1988.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Keeping in view the widespread failure of cotton crop in Guntur and Prakasam districts of Andhra Pradesh and the verious representations received in this regard including a note from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, a Committee of bankers under the Chairmanship of Dr. P. D. Ojha, Deputy Governor, RBI was appointed to assess the situation and to suggest remedial measures for ameliorating the plight of affected cotton growers. On the basis of recommendations made by this Committee, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has on June 29, 1988 issued instructions to all scheduled commercial banks for providing necessary relief and concession to the cotton growers in the two districts of Andhra Pradesh.

Deposits under non-resident deposit accounts

*190. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what were the total deposits under foreign currency Non-Resident deposit accounts in the nationalized banks in the country during 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87;

(b) whether there has been a sharp rise in deposits in 1986-87; if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is a fact that agents offering massive FCNR deposits are known to be using these deposit receipts to borrow funds abroad; if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The total deposits outstanding under Foreign Currency Non-Resident (FCNR) Accounts in Banks in India at the end of March 1985, 1986 and 1987 were as follows:

As on	Amount (Rs. in crores)
31.3.85	954.62
31.3.86	2188.22
31.3.87	3511.11

(b) Yes, Sir. There has been a rise. This could be attributed to the overall attractiveness of the scheme.

(c) There is no ban on borrowing against the collateral of the FCNR deposits. However, the Reserve Bank of India have issued certain cautionary guidelines to the Indian Banks regarding the general parameters for granting loans against FCNR/NRE deposits so as to avoid arbitrage and speculations including the FCNR/NRE Deposits for the purpose of keeping such borrowed funds in FCNR/NRE Accounts.

Clearence of projects of West Bengal from foreign exchange angle

*191. SHRI ASHIS SEN:

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared the projets from West Bengal from the foreign exchange angle; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINITER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Project related foreign exchange requirements of the States are

@Previously Starred Question 149, transferred from the 5th August, 1988.